

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

a1. Sub B1
1. A method for generating a hepatic cell culture comprising co-culturing hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells, in the presence of growth factors and a matrix coated with at least one biologically active molecule that promotes cell adhesion, proliferation or survival under conditions sufficient to allow for the proliferation of said hepatocytes that retain hepatic function.

a2. Sub B3
14. A population of hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells associated with a matrix coated with at least one biologically active molecule that promotes cell adhesion, proliferation or survival.

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-7 and 12-14 are pending in the application. The pending claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first and second paragraph. Claims 1-7, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and § 102(f). Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). For reasons detailed below, the rejections should be withdrawn and the claims allowed to issue. Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

1. The Claims are Enabled

Claims 1-7, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner alleges that while the specification is enabling for the method of claim 1